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Review of Koch's report on malaria in German East Africa.

BERLIN, GERMANY, *March 28, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report on the result of Dr. Robert Koch's study of malaria, carried on in Italy, German East Africa, and the East Indian Islands: The investigation was begun in the summer of 1898, and continued till near the end of 1900. This work was begun after Manson's and Ross' work had proved the mosquito an active participant in the propagation of malaria, so little remained along that line to be solved. Suffice it to say, that the conclusion of these well-known investigators was confirmed, though Dr. Koch thinks it very likely that the anopheles are not the only species of mosquito capable of transmitting the malaria, but that the culex is also concerned in its propagation. Every attempt to find the plasmodia-malaræ in any species of the lower animal was entirely unsuccessful, so it is not likely the parasite can complete its life history in another organism than the human body. Efforts were also made to inoculate other animals, as monkeys and bats, with malarial blood from the human subject, but failure resulted in every case.

Dr. Koch observed the fact that during the winter months in Italy the number of cases of malaria dropped to a minimum, and only manifested itself again on the appearance of warm weather in the following spring. He is of the opinion that these first cases of the spring months are relapsing cases that were either untreated or imperfectly treated, and that the malarial parasite exists in a latent form in the human body during the apparent disappearance of the malaria. Naturally he regards it of the utmost importance to administer quinine sufficiently long to entirely eradicate the organism from the human body, and thus avoid the recurrences in the spring. He considers the free use of quinine the best and most practical method of ridding a community of malaria. Mosquito nets are regarded as a useful means for combating the spread of the dreaded pest, but not as specific as some claim for it. The weak point in its use is the fact that one is subject to the bite of the mosquito at hours when not under the protection of a bednetting. To wear veils as a protection to the face he regards as impracticable on account of the heat of the tropics. The use of petroleum is in many cases impracticable on account of the large marshy areas devoted to the cultivation of rice. Then, too, it would be difficult to apply petroleum to every small cavity containing water, as palm cones, tree trunks, etc., which are capable of receiving the larvæ of the anopheles.

That the free use of quinine alone is capable of ridding a community of malaria is shown by the following statistics from Spandau, a small town in the vicinity of Berlin: Population, 1874, 3,853; 1885, 4,800, and 1891, 5,883. Cases of malaria, 1874, 2,557; 1885, 111, and 1891, 1.

It is stated that the practical disappearance of malaria is not due to better drainage, for the anopheles are still found in considerable numbers. The cheapening of quinine has had a considerable influence on increasing its use, and thus contributing to the eradication of malaria. Thirty years ago it was so expensive that the poor of the community were deprived of its use, but now it is within the reach of all.

The German army is also quoted to show the influence of quinine in eradicating malaria: Cases of malaria, 1869, 13,563 (54.5 per cent); 1896, 230 (0.45 per cent).

This shows a decrease in the number of cases of more than 99 per cent. Another point of considerable interest is the fact that malaria existing in a locality endemically is distinctly a disease of childhood.

Among infants under two years of age Dr. Koch found the malarial organism in the blood of 80 per cent of the cases. Between 2 and 5 years of age, the organism was much less frequently found, and later in life it was exceptional to find the organism at all. Dr. Koch holds that a certain immunity exists after a long attack of malaria. Dr. Koch recommends as a means of eradicating malaria from the German colonies the sending out of young physicians trained in the use of the microscope. He also advocates the distribution of quinine *gratis* to the natives. The success of the government of Dutch India in diminishing so successfully the number of cases of malaria, he attributes to the free use of quinine. In Dutch India there is distributed gratis more than 2,000 kilograms of quinine annually to the natives.

Respectfully, JOSEPH B. GREENE,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

HONDURAS.

Report from Puerto Cortez—Fruit port.

PUERTO CORTEZ, HONDURAS, *April 3, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to report my arrival at Puerto Cortez, Honduras, yesterday afternoon (April 2). Reported to consular agent and received from him Department letter of March 22 (W. P. W.), inclosing appointment, and Department Circular No. 134. Mr. Alger also turned over to me certificates, stationery, code book, book of revised regulations (U. S. M. H. S.), autoclave, lamp, formalin mixture (1 carboy), glycerin, and calcium chloride received by him from former appointee at this station. Dr. E. B. Preis, representing State board of Louisiana, also arrived yesterday.

Mr. Alger gives a favorable report of health conditions at this port. Will institute quarantine regulations beginning (to-morrow) April 4.

Respectfully, SAMUEL HARRIS BACKUS,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

ITALY.

Report from Naples.

NAPLES, ITALY, *March 30, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that for the week ended March 30, 1901, the following ships were inspected:

On March 26, the steamship *Tartar Prince*, of the Prince Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 1,004 steerage passengers and 96 pieces of large and 1,500 pieces of small baggage. Two hundred and seventy-four pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

On March 26, the steamship *Citta di Torino*, of the Veloce Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 1,202 steerage passengers and 36 pieces of large and 1,547 pieces of small baggage. Two hundred and seventy-five pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

On March 27, the steamship *Auguste Victoria*, of the Hamburg-American Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There